



Iowa Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXIV, No. 5, September/October 2004

Iowa Women Receive High Honor

Four Inducted into Iowa Women's Hall of Fame

Four remarkable women were recognized for their significant contributions by being inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame on Saturday, August 21 at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The event was held in conjunction with Women's Equality Day, August 26, which commemorates the day in 1920 when American women won the right to vote.

The Iowa Women's Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW). Governor Thomas J. Vilsack and ICSW Chair Kimberly Painter presented awards to Joy Cole Corning, Mary Ann Evans, and Lieutenant Governor Sally J. Pederson. A posthumous award acknowledged Ruth Cole Nash.

Also at the ceremony, the ICSW presented Marie C. Wilson with the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice. This medal is awarded periodically to an Iowan whose life exemplifies the work of Cristine Wilson, who was the first chair of the ICSW and who spent her life working toward equality and justice. [Marie Wilson and Cristine Wilson are not related.]

This year marked the 30th Iowa Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony. For a book containing the pictures and biographies of these women, send \$5, which includes shipping and handling, to the ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319. Biographies of all 120 inductees can be read on-line on the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame page of <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw>. A publication listing biographies of the Cristine Wilson Medal recipients is also available on-line.

Joy Cole Corning

Joy Cole Corning created the first statewide effort in Iowa's history to accept, value, and celebrate diversity—people's differences, unique needs, similarities, and contributions. As lieutenant governor, in 1991 she turned an appalling incident driven by prejudice and bigotry into the impetus for creating community initiatives—forums, team-building activities, a major television presentation, and highly successful annual statewide conferences. The breadth of Corning's leadership is remarkable: children and families benefited when, as a state senator, she successfully introduced Iowa's first measure outlawing physical punishment in schools and when her hotly debated bill to extend the statute of limitations on sexual abuse passed, paving the way for later extensions. Lt. Governor Corning led projects that increased the number of good foster homes and dramatically raised the number of adoptions of special-needs children. For the rights and well-being of women, she chaired Iowa's first STOP Violence Against Women Coordinating Council; chaired the 75th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage; and after leaving public office, led campaigns to raise funds for the chapel at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. In education she served the Cedar



Falls School Board for 11 years—nine as president, helped develop Iowa Gifted and Talented (was state president, helped author the first state plan), led a workplace literacy project for the state, served on University of Northern Iowa boards, and established the UNI Joy Cole Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series. Other notable roles: chair of National Conference of Lt. Governors and continuing work with a dozen boards and not-for-profit organizations. Corning was born in Bridgewater on September 7, 1932.

Mary Ann Evans

Mary Ann Evans, through her work at Iowa State University (ISU), has been a voice for women within the academic community, a path builder for girls and women interested in nontraditional careers, and an enabler for international women in science and engineering. Since 1978, she has been a leader in recommending how ISU could better serve women students and employees. She was a driving force on the University Committee on Women for more than 20 years. When it became clear that both faculty and students had a critical need for childcare, Evans led the way in developing the ISU Child Care Resource Program, which grew from a single child care



center to a system of services. She completed this important work while at the same time returning to school to earn master's and doctoral degrees from ISU. Recognizing how few women were enrolling in science and engineering at ISU, she founded and directed the Program for Women in Science and Engineering (PWSE), a university-wide administrative program focused on women in science and engineering. PWSE is a comprehensive program serving numerous girls and women, both on and off campus, with initiatives such as career conferences, mentoring programs, internships, role models, and scholarships. Evans was also a co-founder of Iowa State University's International Women in Science and Engineering program (IWISE), whose activities have reached women working in research institutes, universities, government labs, and nongovernmental organizations in more than 20 countries. She has been active in the community, serving as a volunteer at the Center for Creative Justice, Ames United Way, Ames Civil Service Commission, and the Iowa Women's Political Caucus. Evans was born September 1, 1939 in Buffalo, NY.

Ruth Cole Nash

Ruth Cole Nash, born in Minneapolis on February 10, 1922, was a supporter for the arts and worked tirelessly for social change. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1944. She effectively organized study groups and neighborhood activism in opening housing to all races, helping to end segregation in Cedar Rapids. Nash was active in the NAACP and Faces and Voices, an annual multicultural celebration in Dubuque. She resigned from Delta Gamma sorority in 1962 after a chapter was put on probation for allowing an African-American woman to pledge. Nash saw the arts as a means to end racism, prejudice, violence, and injustice. She was instrumental in starting and supporting numerous cultural programs and events in Dubuque: Dubuquefest, which was the city's first festival; Iowa Citizens for the Arts, now called Iowans for the Arts, a statewide lobby; Dubuque Fine Arts Society; Dubuque Museum of Art; Rocco Buda Art Resource Center; and art programs targeting youth and the disadvantaged. She was a mentor and supporter for many artists in different fields: fine arts, photography, crafts, poetry, and fiction. Committed to making the arts accessible and exciting to everyone, especially the less fortunate, Nash often provided scholarships and gave gallery space at no cost. She believed deeply in the necessity for art in every person's life, and in the rights of the individual. An activist to the very end, Nash brought attention to the right of a person to end a life of pain and mental deterioration when she drowned herself on September 15, 2002 in Dubuque.



Lieutenant Governor Sally J. Pederson

Sally J. Pederson has made it her life's work to advocate for people who cannot advocate for themselves. From the time she graduated from Iowa State University and entered the business world at Meredith Corporation until now, she has made volunteer community and political involvement a staple in her daily life. As the parent of a child with a disability, she emerged as a forceful social advocate, not only for people with disabilities but also for children generally, for minorities, and for gays and lesbians. As president of the Autism Society of Iowa, she traveled the state working with parents and educators to assure that children with autism were being served appropriately. Her leadership in those years is widely credited in the creation of the Autism Services Program, a statewide resource in schools. She was founding president of The Homestead Living and Learning Center for Adults with Autism. Pederson's work and influence have not been limited to Iowa. She was a special guest at the first White House Conference on Mental Health and served as a trustee for the National Alliance for Autism Research. In 2004, she was an invited delegate to the Global Women's Action Network for Children where she worked with women leaders from around the world to create strategies that will try to build the political will to globally address women and children's issues. As Lieutenant Governor of Iowa, Pederson works side by side with the Governor, who often refers to her as the "conscience of this administration." She has served on the Executive Committee of the National Lieutenant Governors Association and as national chair of the Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association. Pederson was born January 13, 1951, in Muscatine and grew up in Vinton.



Cristine Wilson Medal Recipient Marie C. Wilson

Marie C. Wilson, an advocate of women's issues for more than 30 years, is founder and president of The White House Project, co-creator of Take Our Daughters to Work Day and author of *Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World*. Wilson founded The White House Project in 1998 in recognition of the need to build a truly representative democracy – one where women lead alongside men in all



spheres. Wilson started The White House Project while she was still president of the Ms. Foundation for Women, a position she held from 1984-2004. In honor of her work, the Ms. Foundation has created The Marie C. Wilson Leadership Fund. Over the last thirty years, Wilson's accomplishments include directing women's programs at Drake University, becoming the first woman elected to the Des Moines City Council as a member-at-large in 1983, co-authoring the critically acclaimed *Mother Daughter Revolution*, and serving as an official government delegate to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China in 1995. And, in the year 2000, in conjunction with Mattel, Wilson brought the world President Barbie. Wilson has been profiled in *The New York Times* "Public Lives" column, has appeared on *The Today Show*, *CNN*, *National Public Radio* and other national programs and is quoted widely for her expertise. Born and raised in Georgia, Wilson has five children and four grandchildren.

Do you know a remarkable woman?

Do you know someone who should be in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame? Is the community and/or state better for her contributions? Are people in general better because of her accomplishments? Are women in Iowa, the region, and/or United States better, has their status improved, or have opportunities increased for women because of her life and contributions, and/or is the nation, world, or a particular discipline, profession, or field better because of her contributions?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, go to <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/iafame> for a nomination form.

ICSW FY 2004 Performance Measures Reported

- 39 unequal treatment or discrimination, 124 persons at risk, and 1,173 information or referral requests were handled out of 3,963 staff contacts
- 18.3% or 13 of 71 legislative proposals were enacted
- 4,442 publications were distributed on paper versus 33,026 (88%) downloaded from the web site
- 22,340 visitor sessions were reported on the web site
- 22% of the 8,600 *IoWoman* newsletters were distributed by email
- 55% (771 of the 1,402 total) Iowans in Transition were trained in a degree program
- 49% excellent and 50% good ratings were compiled from the March, 2004

Whispers and Screams conference - total 99%

To review the fiscal year 2005 performance plan, visit our website, <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw>.

Women-Owned Business in Iowa

As of 2002, there were an estimated 61,811 majority-owned, women-owned privately-held firms in Iowa with an estimated 11,494 women-owned employer firms in Iowa. Between 1997 and 2002, Iowa increased by 7% the number of women-owned firms while increasing by 38% the women-owned employer firms.

However, among the 50 states and DC, Iowa ranks 30th in the number of women-owned firms in 2002, 31st in employment, and 29th in sales. Iowa ranks 45th in the growth in the number of women-owned firms between 1997 and 2002, 26th in employment growth, and 25th in sales growth among the states and DC, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census compiled by the Center for Women's Business Research at <www.womenbusinessresearch.org>.

Referral Information on Programs to Assist Women and Minorities in Establishing and Expanding Small Businesses is an ICSW publication available at <www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw> under information.

Public Hearing Set

Do you have a vested interest in the improved status of girls and/or women in Iowa? And, would you like the opportunity to influence the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women's 2005 Legislative Proposals?

If so, consider testifying at the Commission's annual Public Hearing beginning at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26 at the Urbandale Public Library, 3520 - 86th Street, Urbandale.

Persons or groups who have an interest in issues affecting Iowa women/girls are invited to participate. Contact the ICSW to receive a participants' form to complete.

Those who wish to present **written information** for consideration at the public hearing must have 15 copies of the material, including the participant form, **in the office by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 13:** Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319.

Persons or groups wishing to participate in the **oral discussion** of one or more hearing topics (for no longer than 5 minutes) should call or write for scheduling on the agenda. Deadline for scheduling oral discussion is **12 noon, Monday, October 11:** Lori SchraderBachar at 515/281-4470, 800/558-4427, or

lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov. Persons/groups may also submit written material by the above-mentioned date to complement their oral presentation.

Topics may include but are **not limited** to family, child care, health, insurance, corrections, pay equity, violence, sports, education, caregiving, displaced homemakers, sexual harassment, employment issues, health care reform, business/economic issues, divorce, housing, and welfare reform.

Coalition Against Abuse Lending Formed

In June, 2004, many statewide groups came together and formed the Coalition Against Abusive Lending (CAAL) to

- identify model state policies to address issues of predatory lending and to expand access to responsible lenders by people with credit needs;
- increase public awareness and public education on predatory lending practices, including the need for state policies to curb abuses; and
- develop dialogues and build partnerships with other interested groups, including members of the responsible lending community, to refine strategies and build broad-base support for policy and practice change.

There have always been unscrupulous practices that have adversely affected struggling working or fixed-income families including loan sharking and other illegal activities. At the same time, however, the complexity of the financial industry and the growth in technology has made some predatory practices more possible.

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement reviewed 100 loan documents to find an average 13.59% annual percentage rate and an average loan fee at 7.5%, both almost double the national average, and families being given multiple loans within one year, sometimes doubling what they owe on their home.

An immediate step by CAAL is urging the Legislative Council to authorize an interim committee on curbing predatory lending practices. CAAL will conduct regional meetings in Iowa and convene an Iowa Summit on predatory lending after the November election. For more information, contact Victor Elias at victore@cfpciowa.org or 515/280-9027.

WOMEN TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR POWER VOTE

First Things First - Register to Vote

In order to vote in Iowa, you must be registered to vote. To register to vote, you must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Iowa, at least 17 - 1/2 years old (you must be 18 to vote), not have been convicted of a felony (unless your rights have been restored), not currently been judged "incompetent" to vote by a court, or given up your right to vote in any other place. Voter registration forms are available from the Secretary of State's office and online (www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/voterreg/reg_to_vote.html), County Auditor's offices, driver's license stations, state agencies, and in most telephone books. You must register by September 3 to be eligible for the school election on September 14 or by October 23 to be eligible for the general election on November 2. Registration is permanent; you will only need to register again if you move.

Make an Informed Choice

Research the candidates' positions on issues that are important to you. As candidates travel throughout the state, consider asking them their views on issues pertinent to you and/or regarding the priority of women's issues in their lives and in their proposed leadership. Following are several suggestions:

- National legislation has been introduced, but not passed, regarding pay equity. What are your views on this issue?
- Iowa began mandatory gender balance of state boards and commissions in 1987, and in 2003 reports 49% of commissions female. What would you do to increase diversity in your administration?
- Domestic violence permeates our country, and most funds are directed to shelters and services for victims. What would you propose our country/state/community do to prevent and end domestic violence?
- Both the federal and Iowa minimum wage is \$5.15 per hour. People working at minimum wage 40 hours per week for 52 weeks make under \$11,000. What are your views on the minimum wage or on a living wage?
- Do you support or oppose funding for alternative care options to keep seniors in their own homes?
- Would you support or oppose the development of a more comprehensive approach to quality monitoring of long-term care services?
- What funding would you support for child care?
- Would you support 12 weeks of partial wage compensation for parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child?

Now VOTE!

School elections are September 14. The general election is November 2. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the general election and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the school election. Your voter registration card will show your precinct name and the location of your polling place. If you have trouble while voting, contact a precinct election official.

Better Jobs Better Care Update

Linda Simonton recently joined the Iowa CareGivers Association (ICA) staff as Project Director of Better Jobs Better Care (BJBC). BJBC is a 3-year, \$1.4 million grant sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies. Simonton's job is to work closely with ICA, the 20-member BJBC Coalition, provider organizations, and BJBC staff to accomplish the goals of the grant – to reduce turnover among Iowa's direct care workers.

Sixteen nursing homes and home care agencies have been selected as demonstration sites. These sites will receive training designed to improve resident/patient care and at the same time, create opportunities for direct care workers to develop and use new skills. It is expected that over the term of the grant, the demonstration sites will lower their direct care worker turnover and include mentor training programs and training in person-centered care.

The BJBC grant has several workgroups researching issues including healthcare coverage for caregivers; revamping the Iowa Nurse Aide Registry; and profiling the direct care workforce through a survey. The ICSW is again involved with the direct care worker Wage and Benefit Survey, which will update the 2001 survey. Unlike the prior survey, this survey will include pool workers and home health workers.

The Coalition will also be conducting a survey of nursing home administrators to find out what contributes to or detracts from their job satisfaction. The results will be compared to earlier studies of CNA and supervisor job satisfaction to identify interventions that will improve the job satisfaction of all three groups. The results will be released later this year.

To learn more, visit <www.iowacaregivers.org>

Health Insurance for Every Child

More than 8.5 million kids in the United States do not have health coverage. Many of them are eligible for low-cost or free coverage through either the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) -- called Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (HAWK-I) -- or Medicaid, but they are not yet enrolled. Unfortunately, many working parents of children who are eligible for these programs are unaware that low-cost or free coverage is available for their children.

Later this summer, Covering Kids & Families will launch its annual Back-to-School Campaign. To get involved, the Covering Kids & Families Back-to-School Campaign Action Kit has all the tips and templates needed to participate at any level, whether to set up an enrollment event or write a letter to the editor.

Free materials are available to distribute to potentially eligible families, including fliers and posters urging them to call 877-KIDS-NOW to find out if they are eligible. To review the materials, visit: www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/communications/materials/order.

Iowans in Transition Grants Awarded

Fiscal Year 2004

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) annually awards competitive grants to programs that serve Iowans in Transition; i.e., displaced homemakers, single parents, and female offenders, who are unemployed or under-employed. The program funding is to be used with an emphasis on helping participants achieve economic self-sufficiency through education, training, and job placement in conjunction with other agencies. After a personal assessment, the programs provide pre-employment services such as support services (child care or transportation), remedial education, academic upgrading, or specific job training.

During fiscal year 2004, 1,402 Iowans in Transition were served statewide by programs including the Des Moines Area Community College on the Boone, Carroll and Des Moines urban campuses, Northeast Iowa Community College on the Calmar and Dubuque campuses, Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville, and Women Aware, Inc. in Sioux City.

Ninety-four percent of the 1,402 individuals receiving pre-employment services were female. At intake, 94 percent were between the ages of 20 and 54, and 49 percent were receiving some type of welfare assistance. Reports showed 79 percent of the population was white with 10 percent African-American, 4 percent Latina and 4 percent American Indian. While about 25 percent attended some type of formal workshop, 80 percent received pre-employment assessment leading up to 11 percent getting an ABE, GED or ESL, 20 percent receiving academic upgrading, and 55 percent enrolling for some type of training toward a degree for a career. A little over 30 percent of the 1,402 received some type of support service (childcare, transportation, etc.).

Fiscal Year 2005

ICSW has awarded five grants totaling \$92,000 to programs that serve Iowans in Transition for fiscal year 2005. Programs receiving funding include Des Moines Area Community College - \$14,000 for the Urban campus and \$20,000 for the Boone and Carroll campuses, \$14,800 to Northeast Iowa Community College for the Calmar and Dubuque campuses, \$20,000 to Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville, and \$23,200 to Women Aware, Inc. in Sioux City. Eight proposals requesting \$185,450 were received. The grant review committee members included ICSW Treasurer Vicki Brown along with Tim Fitzpatrick, Lora Kelly-Benck and Kile Scharf.



Save the Date:
November 15, 2004
Scheman Center,
Iowa State University

<http://www.iowadiversity.org/conference/index.html>

Domestic Violence Projects Listed

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, consider calling the domestic violence project nearest you. Note that many of the domestic violence projects also serve as sexual assault projects. This list was provided by the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 515/244-8028.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Adel | 800/400-4884 |
| Spanish Line | 800/550-0004 |
| Algona | 877/295-6958 |
| Ames | 800/203-3488 |
| Atlantic | 800/696-5123 |
| Burlington | 800/693-1399 |
| Carroll | 800/383-9744 |
| Cedar Rapids | 800/208-0388 |
| Cherokee | 800/225-7233 |
| Clinton | 800/381-9319 |
| Council Bluffs | 888/612-0266 |
| Creston | 888/782-6632 |
| Davenport | 563/326-9191 |
| Decorah | 800/383-2988 |
| Des Moines | 800/942-0333 |
| Dubuque | 800/332-5899 |
| Fort Dodge | 888/356-2006 |
| Grundy Center | 888/746-4673 |
| Iowa City | 800/373-1043 |
| Keokuk | 800/498-5095 |
| Knoxville | 800/433-7233 |
| Marshalltown | 800/779-3512 |
| Mason City | 800/479-9071 |
| Muscatine | 563/263-8080 |
| Oskaloosa | 800/270-1620 |
| Ottumwa | 800/464-8340 |
| Shenandoah | 800/696-5123 |
| Sioux Center | 800/382-5603 |
| Sioux City | 800/982-7233 |
| Spencer/Spirit Lake | 877/362-4612 |
| Waterloo | 866/304-8484 |
| Waverly | 800/410-7233 |

Deaf Women of Iowa Against Abuse
Relay

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Relay | 800/735-2943 |
| Pager | 800/3453228 |

Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo
Amanceer (LUNA)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Amanceer (LUNA) | 866/256-7668 |
|-----------------------|--------------|

State Hotline

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| State Hotline | 800/942-0333 |
|---------------------|--------------|

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Many of us have been affected by breast cancer, whether we've battled it ourselves or had a friend or family member afflicted with the disease. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, except for nonmelanoma skin cancers. They estimate that in 2004 about 215,990 new cases of invasive breast cancer (stages I to IV) will be diagnosed among women in the United States and 1,450 cases will be diagnosed in men. Nationally, it is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, exceeded only by lung cancer. In 2004, about 40,110 women and 470 men will die from breast cancer in the United States.

Breast cancer can often be treated successfully, if it is found early. In order to recognize changes in breast tissue, one must know how the breast normally feels. Take time to give yourself a breast examination every month. Just as your period ends (or at the same time each month if you do not have periods), check for any change in the look or feel of your breast.

Changes to watch for

- a hard lump, thickening, or hard knot in or near the breast or in underarm
- change in the size or shape of breast
- nipple discharge
- dimpling or puckering of the skin on the breast
- itchy, scaly sore or rash on the nipple
- pulling in of the nipple
- ridges or pitting of the breast
- unusual swelling, warmth, or redness that doesn't go away

Report any changes to your healthcare professional. See your healthcare professional regularly for clinical breast exams and mammograms.

Violence Against Women

Violence against women crosses ethnic, racial, age, national origin, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic lines—with children often becoming the indirect victims. It is a leading cause of injury for American women between the ages of 15 and 54, but it can happen at any age. Acts of violence have terrible and costly results for everyone involved, including families, communities, and society.

The most common forms of violence are domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, and elder abuse. Domestic violence, also called intimate partner violence, is when one person purposefully causes either physical or psychological harm to another, including physical abuse, psychological/emotional abuse, sexual assault, isolation, or economic abuse.

Domestic violence is a gender-based crime. Although both women and men can be victims of domestic abuse, the vast majority are women. In Iowa, 81.7 percent of victims were female and 81.2 percent of perpetrators were male in 2002.

Nationwide, in 2001, 691,710 nonfatal violent crimes were committed against persons by their intimate partners. Domestic abuse not only includes violent behavior among people who live together, but also includes assault between separated or divorced spouses, couples who had lived together in the past year, relatives, two people with a child in common, and those in a dating relationship.

If you are abused or have a friend or family member who is abused, get help. Learn how to lower your risk before you find yourself in an uncomfortable or threatening position. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800/799-SAFE, which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in English, Spanish, and other languages. For local numbers, please check the listing to the left.

Calendar of Events

September

Latino Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

- 3 Coffee with Chrysalis: Aging With Attitude.** 7:30-8:30 a.m., Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Des Moines. Free. RSVP to Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853, pdavis@chrysalisfdn.org or www.chrysalisfdn.org/events.
- 3 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.
- 3 Unequal Partners: Teaching About Power and Consent in Adult-Teen and Other Relationships.** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Botanical Center, Des Moines. \$50. Linda Carter, Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, 515/883-1863 x.272 or lcarter@ppgi.org.
- 13-14 Caregivers Top the Charts: Iowa CareGivers Association Annual Conference.** University Park Holiday Inn, West Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa CareGivers Association, 515/241-8697 or iowacga@aol.com.
- 15 Living with Grief: Strategies and Resources For Supporting Bereaved Adults.** 8:15 - 11:30 a.m., Clarion Hotel, Cedar Rapids. AARP, 877/926-8300.
- 15-16 2004 Family Planning Update.** University Park Holiday Inn, West Des Moines. Family Planning Council of Iowa, 515/288-9028 or fpcci@fpcouncil.com.
- 18 Eleventh Annual Iowa Women's Music Festival.** Iowa City. Call 319/335-1486 for more information.
- 21 Indicators for Women's and Girls' Well-Being.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Coralville. Iowa United Nations Association and Iowa Women's Foundation. Rebecca Turner, 888/488-4293 or turner@iawf.org.
- 24-October 1 Banned Book Week.**
- 25 Walk for Moms: Raising Hope for Victims of Domestic Violence.** Merle Hay Mall, Des Moines. Children & Families of Iowa, www.cfiowa.org.
- 26 Walk as One-a-thon.** Des Moines. Karen Heege, National Conference for Community and Justice, 515/274-5571 or kheege@nccj.org.

October

Native American, Domestic Violence, Breast Cancer, and National Disability Employment Awareness Month

- 1 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon. Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.

- 4 ISU Women's Week: The Spirit of Harriet Tubman.** 8 p.m., Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames. 515/294-9934, lectures@iastate.edu or www.lectures.iastate.edu.
- 7 ISU Women's Week: A Matter of Choice.** 8p.m., Memorial Union, Iowa State University, Ames. Speaker: Sarah Weddington. 515/294-9934, lectures@iastate.edu or www.lectures.iastate.edu.
- 12-13 7th Annual HIV/AIDS Conference.** Holiday Inn Conference Center, Des Moines. Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Education, and HIV Community Planning Group. Training Resources, 515/309-3315 or www.trainingresources.org.
- 13 Alzheimer's...at the end of the journey.** HyVee Conference Center, West Des Moines. Fee varies. Gale Brubaker, Greater Iowa Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, 515/440-6383 x.107, Gale.Brubaker@alz.org.
- 14 Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc. Awards Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m., Embassy Club, Des Moines. \$25. For tickets or more information, contact Dawn Peterson, 515/281-8086 or dawn.peterson@icrc.state.ia.us.
- 14, 21, 28 Taking the Road Less Traveled in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology Career Conference for Girls,** grades 6-12. \$15. Kristin Menning, Program for Women in Science and Engineering, Iowa State University, 515/294-5319, trlt@iastate.edu or www.pwse.iastate.edu.
- 15 National Mammography Day.**
- 21 Insights from the Women of Des Moines Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Hoyt Sherman Place, Des Moines. \$17. Speaker: Chris Hensley. Chrysalis Foundation, 515/255-1853 or info@chrysalisfdn.org.
- 23 Race for the Cure.** Des Moines. For more information, visit www.DesMoinesRaceForTheCure.org.
- 26 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting and Public Hearing.** 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 27 Iowa Women's Foundation 8th Annual Grant Awards Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sheraton Hotel, Iowa City. 888/488.4293, or turner@iawf.org.
- 29-30 Strengthening & Valuing Latino/a Communities in Iowa Conference.** State Historical Building, Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa Division of Latino Affairs, 515/281-4080, john.chaisson@iowa.gov, or www.latino-institute.org.

Bits and Pieces

The ICSW extends a thank you to summer semester interns **Amy Ettinger and Brenna Vogel**. Ettinger, a senior at Iowa State University, worked on *pro se* divorce and maternity/paternity leave in other countries. Vogel, a senior at the University of Northern Iowa, worked on a list of Iowa women firsts.



Friends of ICSW received 29 applications totaling \$21,636 for the \$900 that was actually available to award this year from the **Endowment Fund**. It was very difficult to see this kind of need and determine who to award; however, it was decided to assist three applicants in a small way. Brenda Dillenburg of Creston was awarded \$300 for childcare costs. She is attending Southwestern Community College and has set her goal to become a school teacher. Cyrena Holtmyer of Macksburg was awarded \$300 for transportation costs while she

takes an engineering course at Southwestern Community College this fall semester. She is upgrading her skills for a higher paying job in maintenance at the plant where she is currently working. Joyce Lewis of Dyersville is commuting to the Peosta campus of Northeast Iowa Community College to finish her training as a registered nurse. She was awarded \$300 to buy new tires for her car. Friends wishes these women who received awards, along with all the applicants whom we could not assist this year, the best in achieving their educational and occupational goals.



Women in Iowa state government have commissioned a bench to be placed on the Capitol Complex in memory of **Kay Williams**, long-time director of the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. The saying that will be on the bench is a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: "I have

never felt that anything really mattered but the satisfaction of knowing that you stood for the things in which you believed and had done the very best you could."



Fifty-eight percent of **Habitat of Humanity of Iowa** homeowners are single mothers. Statewide, 27% of Iowa homeowners are women.



The National Council of Women's Organizations has released *The ABCs of Women's Issues*, a 2004 voter guide on women's issues. The guide covers affirmative action, business and women, child care, ERA, family leave, global women's issues, health care, job training, military women, pay equity, reproductive rights, social security, Title IX, violence against women, and welfare reform. Copies may be downloaded at <<http://ncwo-online.org/pdfs/abcs.pdf>>.



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Suzanne O'Dea Schenken, President • Charlotte Nelson, ICSW Executive Director • Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor

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